

Message

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Sent: 7/29/2021 2:26:50 PM
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CC: dgreenbaum@healtheffects.org; Robert O'Keefe [RO'Keefe@healtheffects.org]
Subject: HEI Announcement on Newly Funded Studies

Dear HEI Sponsors,

I am pleased to announce that the HEI Board of Directors recently approved funding for three new 3-year studies: one to be conducted as part of HEI's [Accountability](#) program to evaluate the effectiveness of policies to improve air quality and two on the effects of wildland and agricultural burning on air quality and health. The studies were selected from a total of 64 preliminary applications that HEI received in response to [RFA 20-1A, Health Effects of Air Pollution](#), which invited applicants to propose a range of study types that address questions raised in HEI's [Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#). From that set, 15 teams were then invited to submit full applications

The Accountability study "Environmental and Health Benefits of Mobile Source and Electricity Generating Unit Policies to Reduce Particulate Pollution" will be conducted by **Stefanie Ebelt** (Emory University), **David Rich** (University of Rochester Medical Center), and their colleagues. It will assess the effects of selected policies that targeted emissions from motor vehicles and electricity generating units on PM_{2.5}, gaseous pollutants, PM_{2.5} components, and source-specific PM_{2.5} concentrations in Atlanta, New York City, and Los Angeles from 2005–2019. The investigators will compare changes in estimated PM_{2.5} composition resulting from the selected air quality policies and quantify the health benefits of the air quality policies over the study period at each site and within each city in terms of cardiorespiratory emergency department visits and hospitalizations.

The wildfire study "Australian Fires and Perinatal Health Risks" will be conducted by **Michelle Bell** (Yale University) and colleagues and will estimate daily exposure to PM_{2.5} from Australian wildfires by using advanced atmospheric models and emissions inventory. The investigators will then use a retrospective cohort study to estimate associations between adverse birth outcomes and those exposures.

In addition, this study will assess disparities in exposure and in health response for potentially sensitive populations, such as those with low socioeconomic status and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. Bell and colleagues will make their advanced modeling methods and emissions inventory publicly available.

Meanwhile, the wildfire study “Contributions of Prescribed Fire and Agricultural Burning to Air Quality and Health” will be conducted by **Mehmet Talat Odman** (Georgia Institute of Technology) and colleagues and will quantify the air quality impacts associated with prescribed and agricultural burning on daily PM_{2.5} and ozone levels at a 4-km resolution in the southeastern United States. Odman will use a case-crossover design to examine associations between rates of emergency department visits in a national administrative dataset with source-apportioned PM_{2.5} and ozone from these burns and estimate the excess emergency department visits attributable to smoke exposure in the southeastern United States.

If you have any questions regarding these or other studies or would like additional information, please let us know.

Ellen

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